

"BETHLEHEM".

· THE DENSSLAER NICOLL HOUSE ·

· BETHLEHEM · NEW YORK ·

Albany Co.

· H.A.B.S. · 5A-4 ·

HABSBETH  
NY, 1-BETH,  
1-

· PHOTOGRAPHS ·

· WRITTEN · HISTORICAL · AND · DESCRIPTIVE · DATA ·

· DISTRICT · NO. 5 ·

· HISTORIC · AMERICAN · BUILDINGS · SURVEY ·

· NORMAN R. STURGIS · DISTRICT OFFICER ·

· 353 BROADWAY · ALBANY N. Y. ·

HABS  
NY, 1-BETH,  
1-

BETHLEHEM  
or Rensselaer Nicoll House  
Bethlehem, Albany County  
New York

Owner: H.C. Dinmore.

Date of Erection: 1730 (north part).

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and basement.

Materials of Construction: Brick.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

"BETHLEHEM"-RENSSELAER NICOLL HOUSE  
SELKIRK, N. Y.

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This house stands on what originally was a 2400 acre farm, part of the West Manor of Rensselaerwyck. The first owner of record was William Nicoll. In 1719 his second son, Rensselaer Nicoll (1706-1776), inherited the farm and the original house which he tore down in 1729, and in 1730 built what is now the northern portion of the main house, except that there is evidence that this original portion was only two stories high and had a gabled roof.

Rensselaer Nicoll's second child, Francis, born in 1738, inherited the farm in 1790 and between that year and 1795 he extended the main portion of the house to the south and raised the entire roof to its gambrel form. The west extension was added in 1810, probably for the characteristic purpose of providing additional room as the family increased in size and the children married. Francis Nicoll and his wife occupied the north part and his daughter, Elizabeth, who was born in 1764, after her marriage to Maj. Richard Sill in 1796 occupied the south portion. Maj. Sill came from Lyme, Conn.

From 1821 to 1883 the house was owned by their sons William and John Sill and the latter in 1830 built the third addition extending to the west from the north portion of the main house. From 1883 the house was often tenantless and in 1926 the entire estate was bought by the present owner, Mr. H. C. Dinmore.

The main building is typical of the larger Dutch farm houses of which there were many on both sides of the Hudson River. The imported Dutch brick of which it was built were first painted in 1846. The present color is colonial yellow.

Herman Loth,  
Author.

Revised 1936 H.C.F.